

FEBRUARY 2008

SWSC NEWSLETTER

From the Commodore – FEBRUARY 2008

From the Commodore

Ahoy SWSC sailors. It is hard to believe, how fast this year seem to be progressing. When we have our next meeting, even February will be half gone; can you say 'Spring' is right around the corner.....

Good news from the water front: the lake level has been rising substantially and is forecasted to continue to rise by about one foot per week for the next month or so.

One bench mark: the area between the two shallow water poles in the middle of the bay across from AYC is already completely under water again. Word from the marina office has it that the ramp will be reopened this week as well.

Last week the racing circuit jumped into action on a very sunny, mild day with winds around 3 mph 'gusting to maybe 5. We had a great committee, with Scott Widmier and Richard Deason laying down the rules and the buoys, setting up 2 different starting lines (you could not tell sometimes where the wind was trying to blow from...

We got three races in – and surprisingly enough despite the little wind it was a very interesting and competitive race- day. Follow the details, results and pictures in the report by the fleet captain later on. There is this new 'Kidd' on the course that is taking no prisoners and is kicking our collective behinds (most of the time).

George Manner's grandson, Taylor Kidd seems to have the touch for the tiller and the sails – I wonder where he got all that from? From my own experience I want to mention the benefit of such a race day: every thing was in slow motion – but moving, because there were no power boats out that day and disturbing wakes almost nonexistent. One could focus on the sail settings, ponder about strategy, observe the opponents and their progress without the fear of loosing control or having to fight the boat or the wind. It was a race day with a lot of gamesmanship and great action all around, from the starting line, to the buoys and to the finish line.

If you have not given been out on the water yet, give the lake try it may surprise you.

On a scouting mission for the St Thomas Cruise later on in April 4 boats met more or less by chance on Saturday Feb

09 on the lake. Steve Gully, Scott Widmier, Sam Hunter and myself motored all the way up to the dam to look for anchorages etc. Jordan Ball – who is always on the lake- came too late to see us depart and could not our small flotilla around the bend. Steve Gully will have the details on the St. Thomas Cruise outlined later. The return-trip however was a blast in 10 – 15 mph winds, (mostly) straight from the West; all 4 boats were flying downwind, taking most of the chill out of the air at least until the sun disappeared – that was when we all were reminded that it is still the middle of winter.

The website continues to be impressive, now even more so that the race results are posted and all the other details are falling in place. Thanks again Robert Forrester, for doing a great job.

Joe Carter has organized all the raft-ups and beach-parties, that is, we have the schedule for these events fixed – thank you Joe. See <http://www.sailswsc.org/php/events.php> for details of all the events taking place this year. If you look closely, you will notice that some of the events still need a sponsor or a chief organizer. The first one still to be named / organized is not until May 17, but the call goes out to volunteer for this (or any other open) event. Please let Joe or any of the officers know if you are interested in helping out.

Don't forget our next scheduled events: A SOTY race day on Feb 16th, and March 1st, and the first lady's race on March 15th.

Speaking of future events: Rumor has it, that a longstanding, vital (charter)member of the club, a great financial contributor, a sailor and friend is making rapid plans for his retirement to Pensacola, FL. If you know Fred Pope at all, you know he is not a man of many words and big speeches – he has not announced his official retirement or moving date yet, but the writings are on the wall and almost all pieces for his next adventure in life are in place: we just can't let him slip out of town unnoticed and I want to give everybody a heads up.

Finally, let's not forget our monthly meeting this week at Barnacle's. I hope you are prepared – it is Valentines Day as well. We also will hear from our Purser Candice

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Ahrens about the financial status of the club – a status that could get a boost from our members if we all just send in the membership check to

Candice Ahrens, 104 Springwater Trace, Woodstock, GA 30188.

I hope you can join us as we are discussing several items in the 'New Business' category.

As always, Fair Winds. Hope to see you on the water soon.

Andy Kohler

Commodore



FEBRUARY 2ND SOTY RACE

We were all “slip sliding away” on the ice and frost covered decks of our boats on Saturday, Feb 2nd for the second Skipper of the Year race (SOTY) held for 2008. This promised to be more of a “frostbite” race than the actual frostbite regatta two weekends ago. I wore the gold braid and was titled “Admiral for the Day” as I was the race committee. Being a neophyte, I was exceedingly happy that Richard Deason agreed to join me for the day as a race committee tutor. Little did I know how much I would be learning this day and only some of it about how to committee a race! Richard did try to knock himself out early by slipping on the skating rink that was the bottom of my cockpit but we got all straightened out and motored out to set the marks in what seemed to be steady wind.

That wind was little in evidence as the fleet motored out to the start line and I went ahead and called for a 30 minute wait for some wind. Waiting with us that chilly morning were Steve Gully in “Mystery,” Andy Kohler in “Good Times,” Jordan Ball in “Ebb Tide” (apt name for Georgia lakes this past fall), and Taylor Kidd assisted by George Manners in “Gershwin”. We were later joined (after the 1st race) by Robert Forrester in “Mirabella”. As the 30 minutes passed two things became evident 1) the wind was almost nonexistent and 2) what wind there was seemed to be coming from a different direction than when the pins were set. We were able to fix the latter by moving the start line to the reach mark but no amount of praying helped the former. Normally we have too much wind at these early races. Lets hope this year will be reverse of other years so that we have wind during the summer and no Bob and Bake!

After delaying as long as reasonable, I went ahead and called a one-lap race and hurried everyone to the starting line...or mostly everyone. Gershwin and Mystery had great starts with Good Times following behind. Ebb Tide seemed to be stuck on shore behind the line caught in a wind void. Jordan kept working the problem and eventually crossed the line but not until the other boats had reached the windward mark. This race was the epitome of “slow and steady” as the boats crept around the marks. Gershwin crossed the finish line first in a very respectable 46 minutes and 34 seconds given the light winds. Accusations did fly regarding a hidden electric motor given how well George’s boat moves with non existent winds. A senate judiciary committee is currently being formed to investigate.

Shortly after, “Mystery” our last year Skipper of the Year, crossed the line. Now, Taylor was the skipper of Gershwin and he is in ‘B’ fleet. I think it might be a tough year in ‘B’ fleet and potentially embarrassing for ‘A’ fleet if Taylor keeps up this performance. George

has definitely passed on the sailing genes though hopefully not the pipe (helps him figure out light winds). “Good Times” crossed awhile later and finally “Ebb Tide” crossed possibly being pushed more by the currents of Lake Allatoona than the wind. If you are looking for Jordan’s results, well it has taken him awhile to register online but they will be up soon.

Wanting to get more than one race in, I blew the horn to begin the 5 minute count for the next race. There were a lot of worried looks coming from the other skippers regarding the sanity of this move given light winds. By this time the temperatures had warmed up nicely, the sun was out, and the powerboats were very rare so I figured we could all get a suntan if nothing else. One glimpse at many of the participants pasty complexions shows how needed a little color was. I blew the horn to start the race and, once again, Gershwin and Mystery had respectable starts with Good Times following shortly after. Ebb Tide now had the company of Mirabella as they both struggled to cross the line. Mirabella crossed first and, by the time Ebb Tide had crossed, all of the other boats had rounded the windward mark and the leaders were approaching the reach mark.

This race was once again one lap but we did see some of the best winds today. Steve Gully upheld the honor of the A fleet with his Mystery crossing the line. However, three boats were hot on his tail. Gershwin, Good Times, and Mirabella (yes, Robert did a great job of catching up) all reached the finish line mark and were trying to round at the same time. From a spectators’ point of view it was spectacular to watch but must have been a bit hair raising for the skippers. Taylor Kidd literally squeezed in between the two Catalinas and wrapped the bow around and across to finish second in this race amongst much admiration from the other boats. Ironically, shortly after Gershwin crossed the wind decided to fade leaving Good Times to drift across first separated by a few tenths of a second from Mirabella. What a finish! Ebb Tide was finished in place so that we could try and squeeze in a third race in the very light winds.

The start for the third race was as exciting as the finish to the second with two boats crossing mere tenths of a second after the starting horn sounded! I bet you won’t guess which two boats...no it wasn’t Gershwin, Mystery, or even Good Times... The two boats were Ebb Tide and Mirabella. After two miserable starts plagued by wind shadows for Ebb Tide and one for Mirabella, Jordan and Robert made the best starts for the day and were clearly out in the lead of Mystery and Good Times. In complete contrast, it was Gershwin’s time to have problems making over the start line. This

was Taylor's first education in the fortunes of racing and, like all of us, he wasn't enjoying it too much.

However, once Gershwin crossed the start line George secretly started up his hidden electric motor and they proceeded to pass all the boats but Mirabella after rounding the windward mark. Then, disaster happened as the wind shifted pushing Gershwin into the reach mark! To add salt to the already smarting wounds, the winds died away completely forcing Gershwin to slowly drift around the penalty turn at the mark. During this time, all of the boats in the fleet passed Gershwin on the last gasps of a breeze leaving Taylor and George to slowly drift towards the finish line.

Meanwhile, Mystery slowly chomped away at Mirabella's lead but Mirabella was just able to cross the

line tenths of a second ahead of Mystery to win the race for A fleet. Mirabella and Mystery decided to take the wind with them when they finished leaving Good Times and Ebb Tide, who weren't far behind, with no wind resulting in a finish at least 18 minutes after the leader.

It was a very light wind day but everyone kept moving and we did get three races in. Thank goodness there was no motorboat chop as I believe that would have stopped the meager forward progress dead in its track and we wouldn't have gotten any races in. Much thanks to Richard Deason for his company, advice, and assistance. Also, thanks to Steve and Andy for helping gather the marks after the race was complete. This is something that really helps the race committee out!

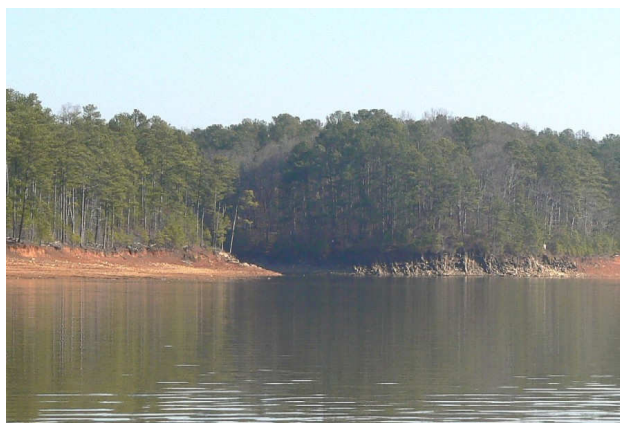


ST. THOMAS ALLATOONA CRUISE

April 18-20, 2008

This year we will do the cruise in reverse from the past two years. We'll start at Sweetwater on Friday, sail toward the Dam Saturday and anchor in Wilderness. Sunday should be a nice day to sail back to the marina as well. You'll need to bring your own food and drink but as usual you're welcome to share.

Friday April 18: Start out This year by heading to Sweetwater Creek. You'll need to head toward Victoria and go through the 'S' turns. When the lake opens up stay to the left / North side. The cove is between 43E and 45E. Traveling at 5.5mph you should reach Victoria in 30 minutes, you should be through the 'S' turns in one hour, and reach Sweetwater Cove in another one hour 18 minutes.



Saturday April 19: After breakfast we'll head out toward the dam. Here there is plenty of area to explore. Checkout turtle rock, or some

of the other coves in the area. We'll be anchoring on a beach at Wilderness.

Wilderness is located by going through the 'S' turns to the west of HarborTown and going to the end of the long straight away. When you turn left and head toward the Dam there is an opening on your right. Once you enter stay to the right and go past Wilderness marina. We'll be anchoring around the corner to the right on the beach in a large dead end cove. The cove is 32 feet deep and the beach is steep so swing keels are not required.



Sunday April 20: If you did not explore the area Saturday be sure to before heading back to the Marina. The creek behind the marina is very nice.

Steve Gully

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location	Description
Monthly meeting	02/14/08 Thursday 8:00 PM	Barnacles Restaurant 2475 Chastain Meadows Pkwy. next to the new Super WalMart restaurant ph #770-424-1622	Club Meeting: Dinner at 7 PM. Meeting at 8 PM. http://www.barnacles.net/mariettahomepage.html
Monthly meeting	03/13/08 Thursday 8:00 PM	TBD	Club Meeting: Dinner at 7 PM. Meeting at 8 PM.
Monthly meeting	04/10/08 Thursday 8:00 PM	TBD	Club Meeting: Dinner at 7 PM. Meeting at 8 PM.

Upcoming Races

Race Name	Race Date	Committee	Description
SOTY Race	02/16/08 Sat 11am	Andy Kohler	
SOTY Race	03/01/08 Sat 11am	Ruth Leber	
Ladies Race	03/15/08 Sat 11am		
Bitter End Race	03/29/08 Sat 10am		Long distance race
Dauphin Island Race	04/25/08 Friday	Fairhope Yacht Club, Alabama	April 25-27, 2008 http://www.dirace.com

Race Standings for 2008

Skipper of the Year points

Skipper	Fleet	Total Points
Taylor Kidd	B	4.885
Steven Gully	A	4.794
Andy Kohler	A	4.174
Robert Forrester	A	3.556
Scott Widmier	A	2.767
Jon Clausen	A	1.459
Gary L. Holcombe	A	1.000
Garrett and Shannon Holcombe	A	1.000
Collin McIntosh	B	0.909

Catalina points for the year

Skipper	Fleet	Total Points
Andy Kohler	A	11.000
Robert Forrester	A	11.000
Jon Clausen	A	2.000



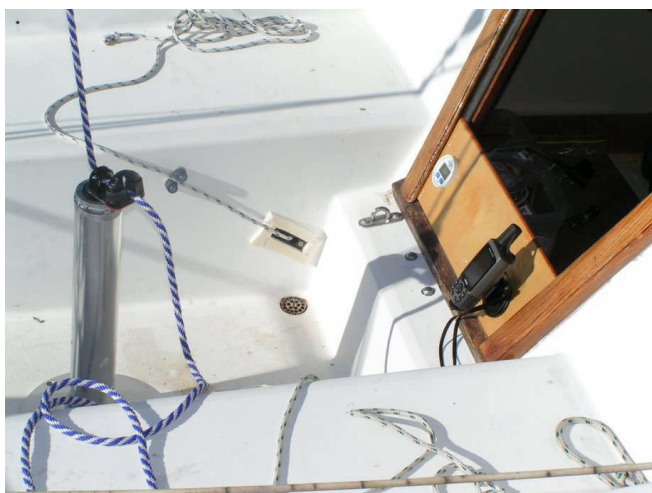
The Spinnaker Bag

Robert Forrester - 01.15.2008

Most of my racing is done solo or with rookie crew. To make life easier, I mounted a "barney-post" and ran the traveler lines through the cockpit walls. My expectations are to be more efficient in controlling the boat. The mainsheet can be configured single line through the blocks for light air days, or doubled through the blocks for heavier air days.

I ran the traveler lines through the cockpit walls with thru-deck blocks and had them exit forward in the cockpit wall to a cam cleat. These traveler lines worked great, I did not have to move to the back of the cockpit to adjust the traveler.

I didn't have time to install the barney-post



before our first race of the year. I did get it installed after the race.

I have seen many Catalina 22 racers with the barney-post and it looks to work quite well.

Here is a link to the Fleet58 gallery:

<http://www.catalina22fleet58.org/gallery/default.aspx?a=1>

02.02.2008 - I sailed two races today with the Barney post in place, everything worked perfectly. All my lines were at arms reach while I was sitting in the front of the cockpit. I also changed my mainsheet, and put a lighter line through the blocks. I had them run through single blocked because of the light air, but can change to have it run doubled through the blocks for heavier air.

Here are two pictures of my boat, Mirabella, with the post installed.



South Winds Sailing Club Membership Application Form

Complete this application and mail it along with your \$45.00 Annual fee (new members joining after July 1st, \$25.00) to:

South Winds Sailing Club

104 Springwater Trace
Woodstock, Georgia 30188

Member(s) Name: _____

Member(s) Address: _____

Contact Information: _____
Home phone: _____
Office: _____
Other: _____
Email: _____

Current Boat: _____
Length: _____
BoatName: _____
Current Marina: _____

Boating Interests: Social events Racing
 Crewing Raft Up Events
 Cruising

Member Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sponsors

<p>Boat/US Marine Center http://www.boatus.com/ 770-936-8611 contact Steve Westmoreland for a 50% membership renewal discount !</p>	<p>East Cobb Physical Therapy http://www.eastcobbphysicaltherapy/ 770-971-5244 contact Alice Nix</p>
<p>Great Oak Mortgage Corp 3235 Peachtree Road NE Suite 400 404-237-7600 contact The Richard Deason</p>	<p>Harbor Town Marina http://www.harbortownmarina.net/ 770-974-6422 contact Lara Voyles</p>
<p>Sailing is Life http://www.sailingislife.com/ contact Sam Hunter</p>	<p>POPE Machinery Erectors Inc. 2070 Attic Pkwy NW Kennesaw 770-426-4311 contact Fred Pope</p>
<p>Shoreline Marine Repair Inside Harbor Town Marina 770-966-1017 Boat restoration, mech.service, hull repairs</p>	<p>Southern Crown Boatworks http://www.southerncrownboatworks.com/ 1-800-746-3857 contact William J. Fennesy-Bill ...wooden boat fasteners, supplies</p>
<p>Sunshine Designs Interior Plants Sales and Rentals 770-429-9956 contact Nancy Johns</p>	<p>Unique Caterers, Inc. Cartersville, Georgia 770-386-5227 contact Charlotte Monroe Our Speciality is Food for You</p>
<p>Visual Marketing Group http://www.visualmark.com/ 770-517-8780 contact Jim Schuster</p>	<p>West Marine http://www.westmarine.com/ 770-612-9944 marine supplies and gifts</p>